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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
YOSHIYUKI KOKOJIMA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: NGUYEN, T.
SERIAL NO: 10/743,829 :
FILED: DECEMBER 24, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3661
FOR: GUIDANCE INFORMATION :
PROVIDING APPARATUS, SERVER
APPARATUS, GUIDANCE
INFORMATION PROVIDING METHOD,
AND PROGRAM PRODUCT

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reason for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of October 21, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on pages 2 and 3 of the Notice of Allowance mailed October 21, 2005, section b of paragraph 2 states in part:

Although the prior art disclose several claimed limitations, none of the references teaches a guidance information providing apparatus, method and computer program which includes at least a guidance route search unit for searching a first memory to acquire a guiding route connecting the input departure place and destination on the basis of the network data, a viewpoint setting unit which sets a plurality of viewpoint position candidates for visualizing the guiding route in target area expressed in a three-dimensional shape data as stored in a second memory, an evaluation unit

which obtains an evaluation value of visibility, from each of the viewpoint position candidates, of the guiding route in the target area expressed in the three dimensional shape data, an information map generating unit for generating the information map by determining a viewpoint position for generating the information map from the plurality of viewpoint position candidates on the basis of the evaluation value of visibility and by projecting the three dimensional shape data from the determined viewpoint position, and presentation unit for presenting the generated information map to a user (claims 1, 4, 5, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 36).

Although the above comment may be accurate with respect to Claim 1, it is respectfully noted that independent Claims 4, 5, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 36 do not include all of the elements recited above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement applies only to Claim 1 and not to Claims 4, 5, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 36.

Page 3 of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance further states:

Also, neither references teaches means for setting a viewpoint position for the guiding route expressed in the three dimensional shape data, means for performing a plurality of deformation processes for the three dimensional shape data to improve visibility, from the selected viewpoint position, of the guiding route expressed in the three dimensional shape data, to obtain a plurality of route deformation candidates, means for obtaining an evaluation value of visibility, from the selected viewpoint position, of each of the route deformation candidates expressed in the three dimensional shape data, means for determining route deformation for generating the information map from the plurality of route deformation candidates, on the basis of the evaluation value of visibility of each of the route deformation candidates, means for generating the information map by projecting, from the selected viewpoint position, the three dimensional shape data subjected to the determined route deformation, and presenting function for generating the generated information map to a user (claims 2, 3, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34).

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It is respectfully noted that none of Claims 2, 3, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34 recite each of the elements listed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement does not apply to any of Claims 2, 3, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34.

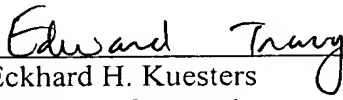
Respectfully submitted,

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